

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, 7 years ago, my son was violently torn from my life, a victim of gun violence, a victim of a person who had a gun who should never have received one.

Today, I join my colleagues and former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords to prevent more families from facing the horror and heartbreak wrought by gun violence.

Later today, Congressman KING and Congressman THOMPSON will introduce bipartisan legislation to ensure that no one is able to get a gun from an unlicensed sale without a background check. Background checks empower law enforcement to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and domestic abusers. Quite simply, they save lives.

I am honored to cosponsor this bipartisan legislation for my son, Jordan, and for the safety of every family in this country. I ask my fellow parents, my fellow Members, and my fellow Americans to stand with me today, in support of universal background checks. Together, we will make our communities safer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO FELLOW KANSANS

(Mr. WATKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, many Kansans have followed the path from military to political service, names like Pompeo, Roberts, Dole, and Eisenhower.

I stand on the shoulders of giants. I do so with humility and with gratitude that the people of Kansas have bestowed upon me such an honor.

To my fellow Kansans: I won't let you down.

To my colleagues: We will have our disagreements and our debates. We should. But we should also maintain civility and integrity, and we should work to make the government more efficient, more accountable, and more effective.

God bless the 116th Congress and the great people of Kansas, and may God bless the United States of America.

HARMFUL IMPACT OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. PRESSLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the occupant of the White House.

Mr. Trump, you took an oath, just as I did 5 days ago, to protect and defend

the Constitution and the American people. Sir, you dishonor that oath. You devalue the life of the immigrant, the worker, and the survivor. I see right through you and so do the American people. This has nothing to do with border security. Your shutdown, another Trump-generated crisis, has brought a tsunami of hurt on the American people.

Today, I rise to lift the voices of the unheard. I rise today on behalf of the families concerned about feeding their children because their WIC benefits will run dry.

I rise today in solidarity with the thousands of workers with calloused hands and broken spirits working for no pay.

I rise today in support of the survivor fleeing violent hands, seeking safety, only to find the shelter door locked because of your shutdown.

I rise today in support of the American people who believe in the promise of this Nation and ask for honest pay for an honest day's work.

Today, I rise as one and I stand as thousands.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President of the United States.

EXTENSION OF CHILD TAX CREDIT TO PUERTO RICO

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Child Tax Credit Equity for Puerto Rico Act of 2019.

Under current law, in Puerto Rico, the child tax credit only applies to families who are raising three or more children.

In comparison, families living in the mainland are able to use this credit for having even one or two children. Small families consisting of one or two children in Puerto Rico are excluded from receiving this necessary benefit.

The purpose of the child tax credit is to be a tool to help families offset the expenses of raising children and raise themselves out of poverty.

Mississippi has the highest poverty level of any State. Puerto Rico's poverty rate, now at 45 percent, is 178 percent higher than Mississippi.

According to the Census Bureau, the lowest household income of Puerto Rico is \$19,000 a year, compared to \$43,000 in the State of Mississippi and \$61,000, average, in the whole mainland.

This proposal will help Puerto Rico's economy and benefit about 355,000 families and more than 404,000 children in Puerto Rico.

I urge my colleagues to support and pass this bill, and I thank Congressmen JOSÉ SERRANO, FITZPATRICK, and DUFFY for being original cosponsors of this bill.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4 of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (Pub. L. 114-196), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Semiquincentennial Commission:

Mr. EVANS, Pennsylvania

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RASKIN) at 4 p.m.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 26

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON RULES.—Ms. MATSUI and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

MEDICAID EXTENDERS ACT OF 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 259) to extend the Medicaid Money Follows the Person Rebalancing demonstration, to extend protection for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment, and for other purposes, as amended.